

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9201
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
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USEC BRUSSELS

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SUMMARY: THE EUROCOMMUNIST "SUMMIT" BEGAN YESTERDAY WITH-
OUT INCIDENT IN A LUXURY MADRID HOTEL. IT WILL CONCLUDE
TODAY, REPORTEDLY WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON
DURING WHICH A THREE-PLUS PAGE FINAL DOCUMENT WILL BE DIS-
SEMINATED. IT IS EXPECTED TO STICK TO WESTERN EUROPEAN
AND SPANISH ISSUES AND TO AVOID MENTION OF THE SOVIET
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UNION OR EASTERN EUROPE,PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF MARCHAIS'
REFUSAL TO COUTENANCE ANY SUCH STATEMENT, BUT ALSO AS
THE RESULT OF BERLINGUER'S REPORTED LACK OF ENTHUSIASM
FOR IT (REFTEL, ROME 2720), END SUMMARY.

1. MARCHAIS AND BERLINGUER ARRIVED YESTERDAY AT MADRID'S
BARAJAS AIRPORT WHERE THEY REPORTEDLY WERE ALMOST TRAMP-

LED BY SWARMS OF NEWSMEN. THEY WERE THEN BROUGHT INTO TOWN IN CARRILLO'S ARMOR-PLATED 1948 CADILLAC, A RECENTLY-ARRIVED GIFT FROM NICOLAI CEAUSESCU (MADRID (1137). BERLINGUER LIMITED HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT TO A FEW LINES, EMPHASIZING THE "CONVERGENT"POINTS OF VIEW OF THE THREE PARTIES AND HIS CONVICTION THAT THIS CONVERGENCE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY THE TWO-DAY MEETING. MARCHAIS, FOR HIS PART, READ A PREPARED STATEMENT IN WHICH HE STRESSED THAT DEMOCRACY WAS NOT POSSIBLE IN SPAIN WITHOUT A LEGAL PCE, WHILE HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT HE HAD NOT COME TO "INTERFERE" IN INTERNAL SPANISH POLITICS.

2. IN A PARIS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN YESTERDAY'S EL PAIS, MARCHAIS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS GOING TO MADRID TO SUPPORT THE PCE'S QUEST FOR LEGALIZATION, AND NOT TO "PRO- NOUNCE LESSONS TO ANYONE NOR TO ELABORATE ANY KIND OF EUROCOMMUNIST CHARTER." HE UNDERLINED THE INDEPENDENCE OF EACH COMMUNIST PARTY TO DEFINE ITS OWN ROAD TO SOCIALISM AND STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WERE SUCH THINGS AS "REGIONAL MODELS." COPIES OF THE INTERVIEW, WHICH INCLUDES A BLAST AT THE USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN THE PROCESS OF REFUSING TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT THE SOVIETS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL BE POUCHED.

3. AFTER AN EXTENDED PRIVATE SESSION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS ATTENDED BY MARCHAIS, KANAPA AND DENIS (PFC), BERLINGUER, SEGRE, TAZP, AND AZZIOLINE (PCI), AND CARRILLO, AZCARATE AND BORNAU (PCE), AZCARATE RAPIDLY READ TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS A RAGGEDY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANDY SUMMARY OF CARRILLO'S REMARKS TO HIS GUESTS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, CARRILLO HAD CLAIMED THAT THE VISITORS WERE IN NO WAY INJECTING THEMSELVES INTO INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS OR ATTEMPTING TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SUPREME COURT, WHICH IS AT THIS TIME CONSIDERING THE PCE'S LEGALIZATION APPLICATION. CARRILLO ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE PECE HAD ISSUED 150,000 MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND THAT IT WAS PUBLISHING 160,000 COPIES OF ITS NEWSPAPER, MUNDO OBRERO. NEITHER BERLINGUER NOR MARCHAIS HAVE MADE ANY STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL.

4. AFTER AN EVENING CLOSED SESSION, THE PCE HOSTED A DINNER FOR ITS PCI AND PCF GUESTS, TOGETHER WITH SOME LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION: FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ (PSD), TIerno GALVAN (PSP), AND YANEZ (PSOE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY). THE FAILURE (OBVIOUSLY CALCULATED) OF PSOE SECGEN GONZALEZ TO ATTEND RAISED EYEBROWS. AREILZA (PP) AND RUIZ GIMENEZ (ID) ALSO WERE INVITED, BUT THEY PUT IN ONLY A BRIEF APPEARANCE BECAUSE OF PRIOR COMMITMENTS, THEY SAID.

5. PRIVATE MEETINGS ARE TO CONTINUE TODAY, WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE--THE ONLY GOVT-AUTHORIZED "SUMMIT" ACT-- TO FOLLOW THIS AFTERNOON. A BRIEF FINAL DOCUMENT WILL THEN BE READ, BUT IT IS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE "EUROCOMMUNIST AFFIRMATION" WHICH CARRILLO WAS SEEKING. MARCHAIS IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO PARIS TONIGHT, WHILE BERLINGUER REPORTEDLY WILL STAY ON UNTIL TOMORROW.

6. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE "SUMMIT" HAS BEEN INTENSE. ALL OF THE MAJOR MADRID DAILIES HAVE RUN DETAILED, FRONTPAGE STORIES ON THE MEETING AND HAVE CARRIED RELATED EDITORIAL COMMENTS, RANGING FROM AN ESSAY BY PCE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY MANUEL AZCARATE IN EL PAIS TO SHARP CRITICISM OF THE PCE AND ITS BRETHREN IN ABC. THE ARTICLE BY AZCARATE AND AN EDITORIAL IN THIS MORN-ING'S ARIBA ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR THEIR CONTRASTING POINTS OF VIEW.

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7. AZCARATE APPEARED TO ANTICIPATE AN ANODYNE FINAL DOCUMENT. HE NOT ONLY BEAT THE DRUM FOR THE EUROCOMMUNISTS' AND PARTICULARLY THE PCE'S DEMOCRATIC CREDENTIALS BUT REMINDED HIS READERS THAT, AS THE RESULT OF ITS COMMITMENT TO "SOCIALISM IN LIBERTY," THE PCE HAD UNEQUIVOCALLY CRITICIZED "THE LACK OF DEMOCRACY IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES; HAD PUBLISHED THE CHARTER 77 DOCUMENT; AND HAD PROTESTED CASES OF VIOLATIONS OF LIBERTIES (IN THOSE COUNTRIES)." HE WENT ON TO DENY THAT THE PCE HAS ADOPTED THIS STANCE ONLY AS A TACTIC UNTIL

THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT COULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND AFFIRMED THE PCE'S COMMITMENT TO PLURALISM AND TO THE EXISTENCE, EVEN IN A SOCIALIST SPAIN, OF A NUMBER OF PARTIES, INCLUDING ONE OF "CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION." HE ALSO REITERATED A PCE COMMITMENT TO "ALTERNATION IN POWER." AN INTERESTING COUNTERPOINT TO AZCARATE'S PRESENTATION WAS A MOSCOW INTERVIEW WITH PCE PRESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI, PUBLISHED TWO DAYS AGO IN EL PAIS, IN WHICH LA PASIONARIA STATES, INTER ALIA, THAT THE PCE IS "NOT THINKING, AT THIS TIME; IN TERMS OF A DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT." THE PHRASE "AT THIS TIME" HAS BEEN WIDELY NOTED.

8. ARIBA, LOOSELY LINKED WITH THE GOS, SUMMED UP THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "SUMMIT" AS FOLLOWS:
--THE GOVT'S AUTHORIZATION OF THE PRIVATE SESSIONS AND THE PRESS CONFERENCE IS A DEMONSTRATION OF ITS REALISM;
--THE "SUMMIT" IS A SYMBOL OF THE POLITICAL CHANGE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN SPAIN AND ONE MORE STEP TOWARD THE NORMALIZATION OF ITS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONS; AND
--ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT ASSUAGE THE DOUBTS OF MANY SPANIARDS ABOUT THE PCE'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PCE, AS A POLITICAL REALITY, SHOULD BE LEGALIZED SINCE THE PEOPLES'

VOTES ARE SUFFICIENT DEFENSE AGAINST IT.EATON

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Message Attributes

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